

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PDIP, GB
SUBJECT: DEBTS OF GABRIEL ALEVINA, COUNSELOR, GABON
MISSION

REF: (A) USUN 387, (B) STATE 031684

1. FURTHER TO DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION TO EMBASSY IN ALEVINA CASE, WE HAVE RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1978 FROM NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION FOR UNITED NATIONS TO GABON MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARTIN BONGO REQUESTING HIS ASSISTANCE IN SEEING THAT ALEVINA'S DEBTS ARE PAID. TEXT OF LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOR THE CONSULAR CORPS IS A MAYORAL AGENCY WHICH ACTS AS OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND THE BUSINESSES, RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT OF NEW YORK. I REGRET THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO INFORM YOU, BUT AT THE SAME TIME FEEL COMPELLED TO ADVISE YOU, CONCERNING A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE INVOLVING MR. M. GABRIEL S. ALEVINA, A SECOND COUNSELLOR AT THE GABONESE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, I AM WRITING TO INFORM YOU OF THE EXTENSIVE AND INEXCUSABLE INDEBTEDNESS OF MR. ALEVINA TO VARIOUS MERCHANTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA FOR THE PERIOD 1974 TO THE PRESENT. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND
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REVIEW, I HAVE ATTACHED HERewith A LIST SETTING FORTH EACH DEBT, THE DATE OUR OFFICE WAS ADVISED OF THE DEBT, THE NAME OF THE CREDITOR AND THE AMOUNT DUE. AS YOU WILL NOTE, EIGHT (8) DEBTS OF MR. ALEVINA, TOTALING \$13,838.48 HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS OFFICE.

DESPITE NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS, CORRESPONDENCE AND

MEETINGS WITH MR. ALEVINA, HE HAS NOT PAID ANY DEBTS AND HE CONTINUES TO INCUR NEW DEBTS. IN ADDITION, MR. ALEVINA HAS, ON FOUR (4) OCCASIONS WHICH THE COMMISSION IS AWARE OF, ISSUED CHECKS WITHOUT HAVING SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN HIS ACCOUNT, AN ACT WHICH IS AGAINST THE LAW.

ON DECEMBER 15, 1977, A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE GABONESE MISSION AT WHICH MR. ALEVINA, AMBASSADOR N'DONG, A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND I WERE PRESENT. AT THAT MEETING MR. ALEVINA PROMISED TO PAY ALL OLD DEBTS BY JANUARY 31, 1978, AND NOT TO INCUR ANY NEW ONES. LATER THAT SAME DAY, MR. ALEVINA WROTE A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220.00 TO STRATFORD INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO CO., FOR PURCHASES OF LIQUOR AND TOBACCO, WHICH WE LEARNED WAS RETURNED DUE TO MR. ALEVINA NOT HAVING SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN HIS CHECKING ACCOUNT. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME MR. ALEVINA HAS GIVEN A "BAD" CHECK TO STRATFORD INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO CO.

MR. ALEVINA'S EXCUSE ON EACH OCCASION THAT WE HAVE CONTACTED HIM CONCERNING HIS DEBT RECORD HAS BEEN THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED MONEY FROM HIS HOME GOVERNMENT. CONSIDERING THAT SOME OF THESE DEBTS RELATE BACK TO 1974, THIS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF MR.
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ALEVINA BE MET IMMEDIATELY. BY IGNORING THESE DEBTS MR. ALEVINA NOT ONLY HARMS THE REPUTATION OF THE GABONESE MISSION BUT ALSO DAMAGES THE REPUTATION OF THE WHOLE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK. FREQUENTLY, BUSINESSES WILL CONTACT OUR OFFICE IN ORDER TO DISCOVER IF A MISSION AND ITS STAFF PAY THEIR BILLS. IN THE CASE OF THE GABONESE MISSION WE MUST ADVISE THEM OF THE NUMEROUS OUTSTANDING DEBTS. THIS WILL BE HARMFUL TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WHO DO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

I SHOULD NOTE THAT WHILE THERE ARE A FEW OUTSTANDING DEBTS OF THE MISSION, I AM WORKING WITH AMBASSADOR N'DONG REGARDING THEM AND FEEL CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THEM WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE SITUATION WITH MR. ALEVINA, HOWEVER, IS GETTING WORSE.

I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SEEING THAT MR. ALEVINA'S DEBTS ARE PAID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER. END OF TEXT.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON CASE. YOUNG

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